



News Release

For immediate release

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Independent panel to review finance and sponsorship of UBCM annual convention

The Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) has appointed a panel to undertake a review of the financing of its annual convention.

The purpose of the review is to evaluate the various sources of revenue, including sponsorship revenue, currently in use for funding UBCM's annual convention. The review panel will solicit input from B.C.'s local governments and draw upon best practices from local government associations in other jurisdictions.

The members of the Review Panel are as follows:

- **Frank Leonard** (Chair), Consultant; formerly the Mayor of Saanich and UBCM President
- **Wendy Booth**, formerly Area F Director with Regional District of East Kootenay and UBCM President
- **Chair Sav Dhaliwal**, Metro Vancouver Regional District and formerly UBCM President
- **Chair Rhona Martin**, Columbia Shuswap Regional District and formerly UBCM President
- **Greg Moore**, Liveable Regional Consulting, formerly Mayor of Port Coquitlam; former Chair of Metro Vancouver Regional District and former Metro Vancouver representative to UBCM

As a matter of long-standing practice, a sponsorship program is employed by UBCM to offset the cost of hosting its annual convention. This program helps keep registration fees to a minimum and make the event as accessible as possible for delegates. The Review Panel will make recommendations on finance policies and practices that uphold sound governance, transparency, affordability and accountability for the annual convention.

In addition to ordering the review at its meeting today, UBCM's Executive also reaffirmed that the scheduled event hosted by the Chinese Consulate in Vancouver will remain one of the sponsored events at its 2019 Convention.

"Over the past few weeks there have been a number of comments from local elected officials with regard to the Chinese consular reception. What we have heard is that there's a range of opinion about the event – some support it, and others would like to



see it cancelled,” says Arjun Singh, president of the UBCM. “The consensus of our Executive is that the event should be retained this year.”

“We see the current debate as an opportunity to review practices for financing the convention that have been in place for a generation,” Singh added. “As a policy-based organization, we want to hear input from our full membership on the convention funding model. The review panel will guide that process and make recommendations to the Executive in time to implement changes for the 2020 UBCM convention.”

Background

The Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) was founded in 1905. UBCM’s annual convention provides an opportunity for its membership (municipalities, regional districts and member First Nations) to meet and develop united positions on matters of broad interest to BC communities. The convention draws close to 2,000 participants over five days.

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