

TO: **Administrators**

FROM: Ken Vance, Senior Policy Analyst
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DATE: March 15, 2005

RE: **NEW RIPARIAN AREAS REGULATION
IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE AND PROCESS**

With the March 31st deadline for the implementation of the Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR) approaching, UBCM has made determining the readiness of local governments and the implications of not being ready to implement the regulation a top priority.

On March 2nd, the Environment Committee Vice-Chair Robert Hobson and Past President Frank Leonard met with the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection, Bill Barisoff, to discuss the status of preparations to implement the RAR. They requested the Minister provide an extension to the effective date for those local governments that were not yet prepared to deal with the new regulatory process. They also asked the Minister to deal with the other issues identified by our legal advisors.

The Minister has officially recognized the need for some flexibility within the RAR implementation schedule and process. UBCM has received a letter from the Minister (see attached) outlining a new process for implementing the RAR, which contains the following provisions:

- *The Riparian Areas Regulation will come into effect on March 31, 2005, as scheduled. Those local governments that are ready to implement the regulation may proceed at that time.*
- *For those local governments that require extra time to make the changes necessary to comply with the Fish Protection Act, [the Minister] will extend the implementation date by Ministerial Order to June 30, 2005.*
- *[the Minister] will consider limited additional extensions beyond June 30, 2005, in exceptional circumstances.*

UBCM is pleased that the Minister has acknowledged the need for flexibility within the Riparian Areas Regulation implementation schedule, and will continue to work with the WLAP on ensuring that the tools required for implementation of the RAR are completed in an expeditious manner.

In order for this process to work local governments that wish to proceed with the implementation of the Riparian Areas Regulation on March 31, 2005 will need to notify UBCM by **March 29, 2005**. UBCM will compile a list of local governments that are ready and notify the Deputy Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection.

