

**TO: Administrators
Directors of Engineering / Planning**

FROM: Jared Wright, Policy Analyst

DATE: November 22, 2005

**RE: RIPARIAN AREAS REGULATION
IMPLEMENTATION STATUS**

Policy Update

In mid-June, UBCM advised the new Ministry of Environment that it felt that the vast majority of affected governments were not in a position to implement the RAR on June 30th, 2005, and subsequently requested an additional extension. The new Minister of Environment, Barry Penner, agreed to provide those local governments that had originally been granted an extension on March 31st, 2005, an additional extension until March 31st, 2006. The Minister provided a Ministerial Order to each affected local government granting the extension. However, those local governments that indicated that they were ready to proceed on March 31st, 2005, namely Kelowna and Langford, did not receive the additional extension due to their previous decision to comply with the RAR.

While some progress has been made on the RAR implementation work plan, there are still a series of outstanding implementation tools that are required by local governments in order to effectively comply with the Regulation. Such tools include: the development of local government training sessions; the completion of a monitoring and enforcement strategy; a signed tripartite protocol agreement; a revised implementation guidebook; and a distributed liability review with the Ministry's communication strategy. It is the Ministry's intention to have these remaining tools completed in December.

The UBCM Environment Committee also met with Minister Penner at its July 21st Executive meeting, and discussed the RAR amongst other local government priority concerns. UBCM raised a series of ongoing implementation issues including application of the Regulation, provincial provision of implementation resources, tool delivery timelines, and the incorporation of suggested legal changes.

RAR Implementation Work Plan Status

The following is an update on the status of the implementation work plan for the Riparian Areas Regulation.