

TO: Regional District Chair and Board
Mayor and Council

FROM: Director Aaron Dinwoodie, President

DATE: October 8, 2004

RE: SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL DISTRICT ACTION PLAN

UBCM is seeking your support for the Action Plan of the Regional District Issues and Non-Legislative Solutions Working Group. This document was presented at a UBCM Convention session where we received very positive feedback from participants.

Background

In early 2004, the UBCM Executive approved a project aimed at pursuing non-legislation solutions to key regional district issues. These issues were identified by UBCM members at a session at the 2003 UBCM Convention. A Working Group was created to:

- Make recommendations ways to improve the general understanding of regional districts; and
- Address issues related to the accountability and roles of regional district directors.

Members of the Working Group are listed on page 1 of the Action Plan.

Working Group's Action Plan and Toolkit

The Working Group produced both a Final Report and the attached Action Plan.

The Final Report provides detailed information on the deliberations of the Working Group at their three all-day meetings. This report is available on the UBCM website at: www.civicnet.bc.ca (follow links to Convention 2004 – Regional District Directors Forum).

The Action Plan is the culmination of the Working Group's efforts. It proposes a work program for development, implementation and on-going assessment of a Toolkit for regional districts. It should be noted that the specific details of the tasks and timelines listed in the Action Plan are illustrative only of how it could be implemented.

The five main elements of this Toolkit are:

1. **Best practices** on ways local governments can promote better understanding of RDs
2. **Fact sheets** to address specific misunderstandings and “irritants” in the RD system
3. **Powerpoint presentation** templates for use by RDs
4. **Discussion guides** focusing on providing advice on the roles and responsibilities of directors
5. **Regional District Booklet** developed as a basic primer on RDs in BC.

Development of the Toolkit is the primary recommendation of the Working Group to the UBCM for how to both improve the understanding of regional districts generally and address common concerns related to the roles and accountability of directors.

As evidenced by the report of the Regional District working group and their deliberations over the last six months, it is clear that much progress can be made to address regional district needs and priorities through non-legislative means.

I believe the Action Plan and Toolkit will serve to strengthen the regional district system by improving understanding of regional districts by the public and elected officials at both the provincial and local government levels.

Request for Support

We ask that you review the attached Action Plan (and if you choose, the full Report of the Working Group available on-line) and provide us with a written response by November 8, 2004 indicating:

1. Whether you support UBCM proceeding with development of the Toolkit; and
2. Which of the Toolkit elements your local government could contribute to (see # 1 – 5 above).