

TO: UBCM Members

FROM: Community Economic Development Committee

DATE: June 16, 2009

RE: **WORKING ROUNDTABLE ON FORESTRY AND
BCUC INQUIRY INTO LONG TERM TRANSMISSION NEEDS**

The Community Economic Development Committee is presently working on two issues that would benefit from membership feedback:

- preparing a response to the Working Roundtable on Forestry report and recommendations; and
- participating in the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) Inquiry into BC's long term transmission needs.

Working Roundtable on Forestry

With the respect to the Working Roundtable on Forestry, the Committee has reviewed the report and its recommendations and will be providing feedback to the Minister of Forests and Range in July. However, Committee members recognize that in order to adequately reflect the diversity of interests amongst the members throughout the province, with respect to the forest industry, Committee members need to hear from the membership directly. In April 2009, a memo was sent to all Area Associations requesting their input and feedback on the Roundtable's report and recommendations. In addition to the regional feedback from Area Associations, the Committee would also encourage individual members to advise of their specific comments and feedback.

While most of the recommendations speak broadly about actions to improve the situation for BC's forest industry, the following recommendations (10, 14, 22, 23 and 24) were identified as being of specific interest to local governments. These five recommendations speak specifically about actions directed at local governments or encompass issues where members have developed established policy positions. [For the full report please go to: www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/forestry_roundtable/]

The Community Economic Development Committee will be preparing its response to the Roundtable in the coming weeks and would encourage Area Associations and members to convey their feedback to the Committee by the **end of June**. Please direct your comments to the Community Economic Development Committee by contacting: mcrawford@civicnet.bc.ca.

BCUC Inquiry

The second issue is the BCUC's Inquiry into the province's long term transmission needs. Briefly, the general purpose of the Inquiry is for the Commission to make determinations with respect to BC's electricity transmission infrastructure and capacity needs for a 30-year period in order to support efficient long-term development of transmission. The Commission must assess the electricity generation resources in BC that will potentially be developed during the 30-year term, grouped by geographical location, and the most cost-effective and most probable sequence(s) of development.

The Commission must also take into consideration various factors such as utility long-term resource plans, domestic load requirements, export opportunities for clean, renewable or low-carbon electricity, and areas in BC that will be inappropriate for development of generation resources, including but not limited to, parks and protected areas. The terms of reference specify, however, that the Commission must not make determinations on the merits of specific generation projects or with respect to the specific routing or technology of transmission projects.

As a result, the Committee is taking the following actions:

- encouraging local governments to register as participants in the Inquiry, especially if they have specific local / regional transmission concerns that they wish to have considered as part of the Inquiry's deliberations; and
- registering UBCM as an Inquiry participant; facilitating information to the membership about the Inquiry and its work; as well as conveying broad member policy related to transmission infrastructure and planning to the Inquiry on behalf of UBCM members.

As noted, members who have specific transmission interests/concerns are encouraged to register with the BCUC as soon as possible so they have an opportunity to raise their specific interests. As well, the Committee is also encouraging members to send their comments/concerns to UBCM if they are not registering so we can include your issues within the UBCM feedback to the Inquiry.

For further background on the Inquiry please go to: www.bcuc.com/sectionfiveinquiry.aspx .

And if you have specific issues or comments please convey them to the Committee c/o: mcrawford@civicnet.bc.ca.

Thank you and we look forward to receiving your input.