

## Notice To Members RE: INDUSTRIAL TAXATION

***Please distribute to Chief Administrative Officer and Financial Officer***

**A**s you may know, the February 2009 Throne Speech included a number of statements related to industrial taxation, as follows:

*“New tax relief gives light and heavy industry a 50 per cent rebate on school property taxes. That will help save jobs, particularly in rural communities. Yet more needs to be done to ensure that provincial tax relief is not negated by local property tax hikes.*

*Our government will work with the Union of BC Municipalities to develop new legislation over the summer, for introduction early next year, that will protect provincial tax reductions.*

*All levels of government must be equally disciplined to ensure that tax reductions at one level of government are not negated by tax increases in another.”*

In June, UBCM staff began to meet with staff from the Ministry of Community and Rural Development on this issue. Initial meetings have focused on research and fact gathering initiatives, as well as considerations on development of a process by which future UBCM/provincial discussions can most effectively be conducted.

The UBCM Executive were briefed on initial discussions at its July meeting, and determined that UBCM should continue to participate in discussions with the Province on this matter; that efforts should be undertaken to collect the members' views and

to gather local stories related to the industrial tax issue; and that consideration be given to developing a session on industrial taxation at Convention.

Staff is currently engaged in planning a workshop at the upcoming Convention. In order to plan this workshop, and to continue discussions with the Province on this issue, we seek your input on the following:

- qualitative or quantitative information about major industrial and light industrial taxation within your community (i.e., local stories about industrial taxation);
- your observations as to property taxation policy development at the local government level, including evolving or developing trends within your community; and
- your perspectives on local government property taxation, including taxation of major industrial and light industrial properties.

Please provide your comments to Brenda Gibson, General Manager, Victoria Operations, by email ([bgibson@civicnet.bc.ca](mailto:bgibson@civicnet.bc.ca)) or fax (250) 387-4470.

Given the timing of the Convention and the nature of on-going discussions on this issue, your comments will be of the most benefit to us if they are received by mid-September. Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter.