



MEMBER NOTICE

TO: **Mayor and Council
Chair and Regional District Board**

FROM: UBCM Secretariat

DATE: March 16, 2009

RE: **PROPOSED INDIGENOUS RECOGNITION ACT**

The UBCM Executive met March 13th, with the Honourable Mike de Jong, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, to discuss the proposed indigenous recognition act that would formally recognize Aboriginal rights and title in BC. The proposed legislation is a result of ongoing discussions between the Province and the BC First Nations Leadership Council. The Minister provided a brief overview of the proposal.

In addition to recognizing Aboriginal rights and title, the proposed legislation would recognize Crown title.

He stated that the proposed legislation **would not**:

- Alter or create new constitutional rights;
- Alter constitutional division of powers;
- Provide First Nations with a veto vote; or
- Affect the status of existing provincial crown grants or tenures in land or resources, including fee simple title.

Minister de Jong confirmed with the Executive that the provincial government has no intention of passing this legislation without further extensive consultation with UBCM.

The UBCM President communicated to the Minister that under our recently signed MOU the Province committed to early and ongoing consultation with local government on New Relationship activities. **The Minister committed to establishing a process for consulting with local governments.** UBCM will work with the Ministry over the next few weeks on development of a consultation process.

The Ministry recently released a discussion paper on the proposed legislation. To download a copy, please go to the provincial government website at: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/newrelationship/default.html>.

If you have any questions or comments that you would like UBCM to raise with the Ministry please forward them to Marlene Wells at the UBCM office at mwells@civicnet.bc.ca or at 604-270-8226, ext. 116.