



MEMBER RELEASE

May 27, 2010

TO: Mayor and Council; Chair and Board; Executive and Staff
FROM: Harry Nyce, UBCM President
RE: **Elections Task Force Report Now Available**

The report of the Local Government Elections Task Force has been released and is available at www.localelectionstaskforce.gov.bc.ca

UBCM members will recall that the Premier announced the creation of the Task Force at the 2009 Convention, appointing me as co-chair and confirming UBCM as equal partners in a consensus-based process. The Premier also set a May 30, 2010 deadline for the Task Force recommendations so that legislative changes could be introduced in advance of the 2011 local government elections.

Throughout the deliberations, your UBCM representatives relied upon and advocated for established UBCM policies (i.e. no corporate vote; a move to four year terms). In areas outside of existing policy, our representatives were guided by the feedback provided at our consultation in Richmond on March 12, our meetings with Area Associations, UBCM Executive and many direct submissions from local governments. I thank all of the members that took the time to participate at one of these sessions or provide input through the Task Force website.

The recommendations will form the basis for legislation, and considerable work will be necessary in order to attain

the goal of implementation prior to the 2011 elections. We will be tracking the legislation as it is brought forward, and will provide further information at a session during Convention in Whistler later this year.

A key finding of the Task Force was that the vast majority of local elections in B.C. have been effectively administered. The goal of the Task Force has been to improve the existing legislation by addressing areas where there have been demonstrated gaps. It is the feeling of all on the Task Force that we have attained this goal with a targeted set of recommendations that address matters such as expense limits, third-party advertising and new enforcement provisions.

I would like to thank Councillor Barbara Steele, Mayor Mary Sjostrom and Chair Robert Hobson for their dedication, time and thoughtful contributions to the Task Force. As a group, we are very appreciative of the leadership of Minister Bill Bennett on this project, as well as the contributions by provincial MLAs Doug Horne and Donna Barnett.