



MEMBER RELEASE

November 17, 2010

TO: Mayors, Chairs and Administrators
FROM: Union of BC Municipalities
RE: **Ministry Website on Implementation of the Elections Task Force Recommendations: Campaign Expense Limits**

The Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development has launched a webpage to highlight some of the key recommendations of the Local Government Elections Task Force and to provide information on how the recommendations may affect candidates and others who participate in local elections. The webpage includes questions and answers on a number of topics, including information on the development of campaign expense limits for future local government elections.

All UBCM members are encouraged to visit the following link to review the information:

www.cd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/governance/taskforce_implementation.htm

Please submit any feedback specifically regarding campaign expense limits to UBCM as soon as possible. As part of the next steps in developing the actual expense limit formula, UBCM will forward your feedback to the Province.

Since Cabinet endorsed the Task Force recommendations earlier this year, UBCM and staff from the Ministry of Community & Rural Development (now Community, Sport & Cultural Development) have worked collaboratively to develop potential approaches for campaign expense limits. This has included consideration of expense limits in other jurisdictions and a sampling of actual spending data from the 2008 local government elections.

Although the process is not yet finalized, and the Province will make final decisions on the implementation of the campaign expense limits, the Ministry's webpage outlines a number of further considerations that are intended to guide the development of an actual formula for campaign expense limits. These include:

- Total spending is affected by population size and expense limits should accommodate population differences;
- Candidates for mayor spend more than candidates for other elected offices and this needs to be recognized in the limits;
- Expense limits should be formula-based and include a base amount as well as per capita amounts, and;
- Expense limits for elector organizations should be based on the expense limits of the candidates they support.

UBCM will continue to work with the Province on this file and will provide additional information to members as it is available. For more information or to submit feedback regarding campaign expense limits, please contact:

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