



MEMBER RELEASE

April 6, 2011

TO: Mayors, Chairs and Administrators
FROM: Local Government Program Services, UBCM
RE: **2011 West Nile Virus Risk Reduction Initiative**

The West Nile Virus Risk Reduction Initiative was developed in 2005 with funding from the Ministry of Health. The intent was to reduce the risk of the occurrence of West Nile Virus (WNV) and to reduce the impacts of the disease should it occur.

In 2010, the Ministry of Health indicated that there was increasing information regarding the factors that are associated with large outbreaks of WNV – such as the presence of the appropriate species of mosquitoes carrying WNV and confirmed cases in birds and animals.

However, it became apparent in recent years that, mainly due to climate factors, large areas of BC are unlikely to be affected by WNV and, in 2010, provincial public health officials agreed to a re-evaluation of the actual risk of WNV in BC.

Based on this, the 2011 WNV program will be available only to local governments and/or First Nations in the highest risk areas of the province and where conditions warrant intervention at this time based on best available information. This includes the following regional districts (including their members and area First Nations) only:

- Regional District of Central Okanagan
- Columbia-Shuswap Regional District
- Fraser Valley Regional District
- Regional District of Kootenay-Boundary
- Metro Vancouver
- Regional District of North Okanagan
- Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
- Thompson-Nicola Regional District

These areas have been designated by the Ministry to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet the requests of the areas of highest priority from a public health perspective.

Similar to the 2010 program, the Ministry is requiring that local risk assessments be undertaken prior to the application being submitted. However, applicants that completed a local risk assessment as part of a funded 2010 WNV application are not required to submit a new local risk assessment for 2011.

As in past years, regional applications will be encouraged, but any eligible applicant will have the opportunity to submit on their own, or with another eligible applicant. Funding allocations will not be identified, but applicants will be required to outline their funding request in the 2011 application form.

The 2011 Program & Application Guide and Application Form is available on the UBCM website. The application deadline is April 29, 2011.

For more information about the funding program, please contact:

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