



# MEMBER RELEASE

June 27, 2011

**TO:** Mayor and Council | Chair and Board | Senior Staff  
**FROM:** Councillor Barbara Steele, President  
**RE:** **Municipal Auditor General**

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I am communicating today to advise the membership of recent discussions between UBCM and the Province on the Municipal Auditor General initiative, which was proposed in Premier Clark's Families First Agenda. Presidents Committee met with Premier Clark in April to discuss this issue and offer a joint policy development process. In addition, I have been in contact with Minister Chong, and staff has been in recent discussions with senior staff of the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development with respect to policy development and consultation work currently underway by the Ministry.

While discussions between the Ministry and UBCM are just beginning, and UBCM is not yet in a position to answer all of the questions that members may have, it is important to the Executive that we keep the membership informed as the process unfolds.

You may have heard that the Ministry has invited various business representatives to a series of focus group discussions to seek their views on the Municipal Auditor General. These discussions are taking place from June 24 to 29, and will inform the development of a concept paper for Minister Chong's consideration, scheduled to be completed by mid-July.

The concept paper is intended to include a description of principles, duties, benefits, staffing options, costs, and options for the Office's reporting structure. Potential duties for the Office actively under discussion include advice or best practices, value for money auditing, and shared services (eg., auditing the cost of a service provided individually by several local governments in close geographic proximity, with a view to determining if those services might be more economical if they were delivered on a shared basis).

UBCM and individual local governments were not invited to the focus groups being conducted in June. Instead, UBCM was invited to provide names of participants for two local government only focus groups in early July. However, as there was little lead-time available to organize these sessions, Executive has proposed an alternative consultation session in conjunction with our Executive meeting on July 22.

This is an important policy initiative, which impacts the full membership. Consequently, Executive will make every effort to engage the Province in productive discussions as the policy development work unfolds. We will provide further information after this first consultation session to provide the membership with the results of that session and the next steps in the policy development process.

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