TO: Mayor and Council | Chair and Board | Senior Staff
FROM: Union of BC Municipalities
RE: Long term Infrastructure Plan Survey

At the recent FCM Conference, the Honourable Denis Lebel, the federal Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, announced the start of roundtables with provincial, territorial and municipal partners and key stakeholders to guide the development of a new long-term plan for public infrastructure beyond 2014.

These roundtables are part of the third phase of a consultation process that will inform the next iteration of a federal/provincial/local government infrastructure program, expected to commence after the 2014 expiry of the current Building Canada Fund (BCF).

UBCM has been invited to participate in the roundtable in BC, and in preparation for those discussions, has prepared a survey seeking local government perspectives on the long-term infrastructure plan and the next infrastructure program. Since the discussions are aimed at high-level principles, the survey is similarly targeted.

UBCM has considerable existing policy in relation to infrastructure financing, and thus the survey is built around that policy. In addition, the survey aims to build on that direction by providing an opportunity for local governments to provide their views on various implementation choices.

The survey can be completed on-line in less than 10 minutes, and we would sincerely appreciate a response by June 30, 2012. We recognize this is an extremely short time frame, and apologize for this. President Slee has just today been invited to the BC roundtable on July 3, and we are therefore aiming for survey responses prior to that date, in order to use the responses to inform those discussions. The survey is available at http://www.surveys.civicinfo.bc.ca/v2/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=m4L0381. If you have trouble accessing or using the survey, please contact Shelley Webber, Program Assistant at 250.356.5134 or email at swebber@ubcm.ca.

Please note that the current discussions are primarily related to a successor to the BCF program, and not to the permanent Gas Tax Fund. While the current dialogue may act as one input into program design for the permanent Gas Tax Fund, this will not be the only opportunity to be heard about the Gas Tax program. UBCM will ensure that further consultation with the membership is undertaken in relation to Gas Tax as discussions with our federal and provincial partners unfold.