

6. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS



Moving Forward: Building on Strong Fiscal Futures and Preparing for the New Economy

RECOMMENDATION

1

UBCM and the Province work together in reviewing the current local government property tax system and the impacts of the 'New Economy' in order to:

- *develop a fairer, more responsive property tax;*
- *monitor impacts of the New Economy on taxation; and*
- *identify emerging sources, and opportunities to share taxation/revenues that may result from the New Economy.*

RECOMMENDATION

2

The Province to commit to meaningful engagement through a working partnership with UBCM in order to meet the respective mandates of strengthening the local government finance system.

RECOMMENDATION

3

The Province continue to advocate with the federal government in the continuation of federal/provincial infrastructure cost-share agreements at the current or greater level and ensure:

- *the renewal of the Canada Community-Building Fund (formally the Gas Tax fund) with the federal government in 2024; and*
- *by working with the federal government, and input from TransLink and BC Transit communities, a federal/provincial agreement in the federal Permanent Transit Fund is implemented for BC by 2026 as confirmed in the 2021 federal budget.*

RECOMMENDATION

4

BC local governments, with the support of the Province and UBCM, continue to develop and implement asset management best practices in order to deliver services, and manage infrastructure, in a sustainable, cost-effective way.



Addressing Cost-Drivers

Attainable Housing

RECOMMENDATION

5

The Province commit to working with UBCM on a comprehensive review of funding mechanisms for financing growth-related infrastructure services including Development Cost Charges and Amenity Agreements, to:

- *Better capture growth related capital costs that are increasingly strained as a result of pressure for local governments to incentivize attainable housing;*
- *Provide local governments with flexibility to better reflect community circumstances and community objectives; and*
- *Create a consistent approach to land value capture and amenity charges that reduces the uncertainty associated with negotiated agreements.*

RECOMMENDATION

6

The Province commit to work with UBCM to identify the appropriate revenue source(s) that may both increase funding available for attainable housing and incentivize the use of residential property for housing. Potential sources include, but are not limited to:

- *New taxation powers, such as vacancy taxation, to be granted to local governments for use at their discretion;*
- *Returning funds from existing revenue sources such as the speculation tax, to the jurisdiction in which they are collected, for provision of attainable housing;*
- *Modifications to the property transfer tax to make it more progressive and/or disincentivize rapid resale ('flipping'); and*
- *Short-term rental taxation.*

RECOMMENDATION

7

The Province, in partnership with UBCM and other stakeholders, commit to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the development approval processes for which each stakeholder, including the development industry and Province, is responsible.



RECOMMENDATION

8

The Province to commit to partner with UBCM and local governments, recognizing and reversing the historic downloading of jurisdictional responsibility on housing, in the development and implementation of a province-wide homelessness strategy.

Community Safety

RECOMMENDATION

9

Work with the Province on the development of a local government funding and support framework to address new and ongoing emergency management costs.

RECOMMENDATION

10

Work with the Province and with other key stakeholders, recognizing and reversing the historic downloading of jurisdictional responsibility for mental health and addiction services on local governments and locally-funded police, to develop a comprehensive strategy to address mental health and addictions patients.

RECOMMENDATION

11

Seek a new protocol with the provincial government, recognizing each level of government's jurisdictional responsibility, in order to govern the provision of first responder services and address inefficiencies related to provincial emergency health services and the current response model.

RECOMMENDATION

12

Seek a targeted consumption tax that provides local governments a share of provincial cannabis taxation revenue.

RECOMMENDATION

13

Seek the establishment of a provincial program that provides local governments with expertise (e.g., systems and programs) and shared skills to protect and respond to cyber threats.



Climate Change

RECOMMENDATION

14

UBCM request the Province to direct a percentage of the Carbon Tax, on an annual basis, to local governments, to support mitigation and adaptation actions.

RECOMMENDATION

15

Consistent with the UBCM Climate Action Committee recommendations on Buildings, call for new provincial building retrofit incentive programs.

RECOMMENDATION

16

Consistent with the UBCM Climate Action Committee recommendations on Transportation, call for new provincial funding for active transportation infrastructure – which supports the implementation of community active transportation plans, active transportation corridors, and end of trip active transportation facilities at transfer points.

RECOMMENDATION

17

Consistent with the UBCM Climate Action Committee recommendations on Transportation, call for investments in green fleet conversions for local government and community fleets.





RECOMMENDATION

18

Consistent with the UBCM Climate Action Committee recommendations on Transportation, create new revenue tools for local governments to strengthen the transit funding model and reduce reliance on transit fares.

RECOMMENDATION

19

Consistent with the UBCM Climate Action Committee recommendations on Solid Waste Management, call for new investments in solid waste management initiatives – including organics diversion, extended producer responsibility programs, and deriving energy from waste products.

RECOMMENDATION

20

Consistent with the UBCM Climate Action Committee recommendations on Resiliency, call for a provincial funding stream dedicated to supporting the development and implementation of local adaptation plans.

