



September 26, 2016

Al Richmond, Chair
Union of British Columbia Municipalities
10551 Shelbridge Way, Suite 60
Richmond BC V6X 2W9

Reference: 260923

Dear Chair Richmond:

Re: Fire Safety Act

I am writing with respect to the latest developments regarding the Fire Safety Act, which received Royal Assent on May 19, 2016.

I understand that you have had in-depth discussions with Fire Commissioner Gordon Anderson, regarding the approach set forth in the new legislation for the designation of fire inspectors and investigators specifically in British Columbia's regional districts.

As you are aware, under the new Act, which is not yet in force, regional districts must designate fire inspectors and fire investigators, and the Fire Commissioner must establish the standard an individual must meet to perform duties as a fire inspector or investigator.

It was not the Province's intention to impose these requirements on regional districts, but instead provide them with the legal flexibility to opt in to this approach depending upon local circumstances.

The Province has heard your concerns and steps are being taken to amend the legislation. There is no intention to bring the new Act into force until such time as the legislation has been amended.

We remain committed to working with UBCM and other key stakeholders on this issue. I continue to very much appreciate your efforts to ensure the new Act works for all local governments.

Sincerely,

Naomi Yamamoto
Minister of State for Emergency Preparedness

.../2