



MEMBER RELEASE

April 21, 2011

TO: Mayor and Council; Chair and Board
FROM: Barbara Steele, President
RE: Local Government Elections Legislation

The Province of British Columbia announced the formation of the Local Government Elections Task Force at the 2009 UBCM Convention. The Task Force was co-chaired by the Province and UBCM, and delivered its recommendations in May of 2010. These recommendations were given the green light by the provincial Cabinet last July. The objective of the Province at that time was to see these recommendations implemented in time for the 2011 local general election.

Last week, the Executive of UBCM met with Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development to discuss the timing of the proposed legislation. With just over six months remaining, our message to Minister Chong was that local governments needed clarity on the rules governing the 2011 local general election.

Earlier this week, Minister Chong wrote to provide the clarity that UBCM requested. Minister Chong indicated that the Province would seek to implement the Task Force's recommendations in time for the 2014 elections rather than 2011. As a result, the 2011 local general election will be run under the same legislation and regulations as in 2008, with two exceptions:

- Pending the enactment of the proposed legislation, the term of office for those elected in 2011 will be shortened by one month. This is due to a recommendation that would make the third Saturday in October the effective date of the 2014 local general election; and
- The eligibility of local government volunteers to run for office within their local government will be clarified by regulation.

The Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development issued a news release earlier today announcing its decision (www.gov.bc.ca). UBCM will monitor the status of all 31 recommendations once the date of a future legislative session is known.