

Local Government Financial Review Working Group Update

Working Group Co-chairs

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Outline

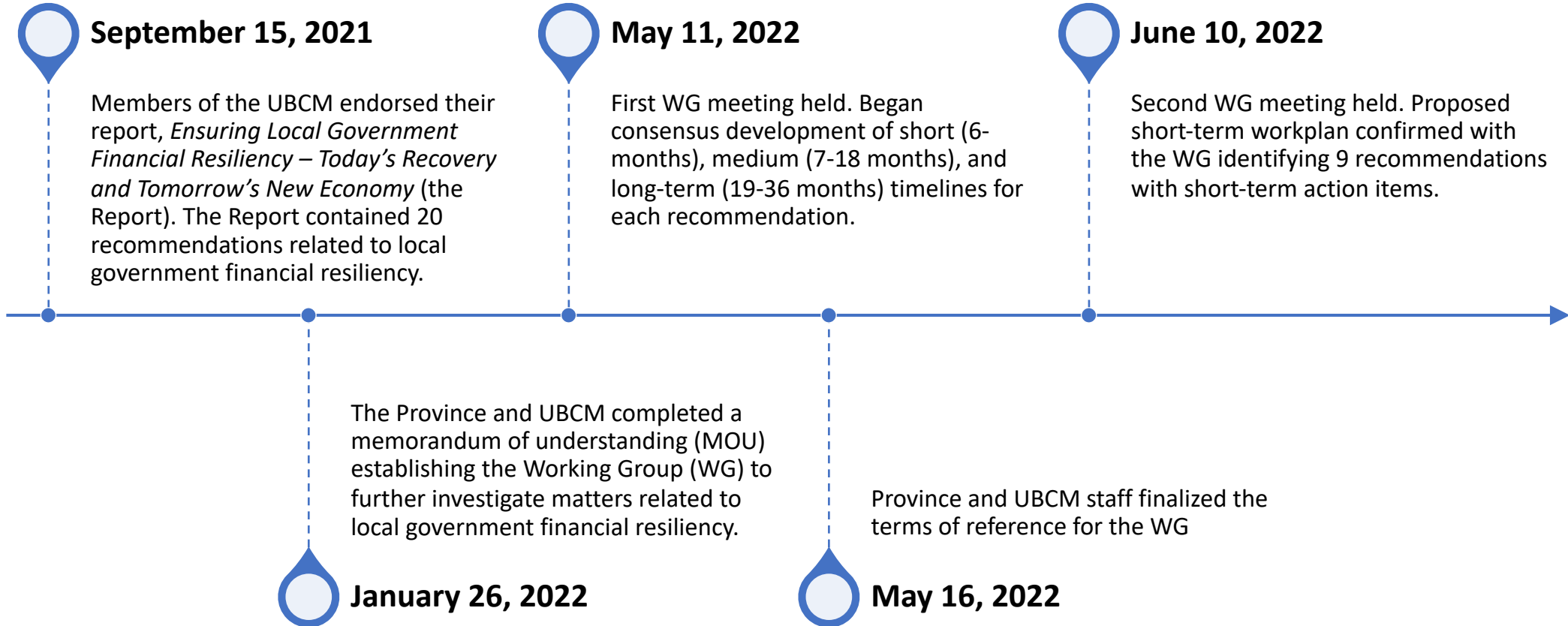
- Presentation/Meeting Objectives
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- Short-Term Workplan
 - Monitor
 - Continue Support/Negotiation
 - Update
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Presentation/Meeting Objectives

Report on progress

Obtain/confirm direction
on WG program of work
(short-term actions)

Progress to Date



Short-Term Workplan - Key Messages

- The most important progress during the past year has been achieving agreement on the MOU between UBCM and the Province, developing acceptable terms of reference, and appointing the working group.
- The working group has since held two productive and collaborative meetings. A number of areas have been identified for work over the next six months, which will set the foundation for the balance of the mandate. Further work will be planned for mid term (7-18 months) and long term (19-36 months).
- Other provincial staff, local experts and academics are also well placed to contribute. Resource support may be required during the balance of the mandate.
- A key point of agreement is that all recommendations in the Report will be reviewed during the working group's 3-year mandate. However, the timing of when particular recommendations will be considered will vary.

Short-Term Workplan – Monitor

- Changes to local revenue, and especially *property taxation*, may result from the economic shift identified as the New Economy, and will occur gradually. An appropriate starting point is to develop agreed upon metrics for measuring these changes. (UBCM 1)
- Strengthening the transit funding model is a key related area. Agreed upon metrics will be established to measure the impact of changes in fuel consumption on fuel tax levels to understand impacts to the funding model. (UBCM 18)

Short-Term Workplan – Negotiate/Continue Support

- A number of *key federal/provincial/local government agreements* such as the Canada Community Building Fund Administrative Agreement come up for renewal within the next year. Building on a history of collaboration between the parties in these matters, the development of a joint negotiating approach that enhances both funding levels and administrative processes, is a key shorter-term action. (UBCM 3&4)
- Reforming local government development finance tools such as development cost charges and amenity agreements has the potential to support the joint local-provincial interest in improving *housing affordability*. However, this is closely related to on-going work on the Development Approval Process Review (DAPR), and a necessary first step is to meet with key provincial officials to discuss the relationship between the two initiatives. (UBCM 5&7)

Short-Term Workplan – Update

- Finding areas of productive joint action to address *homelessness* is a common interest of both parties. It is acknowledged that most of the key preventative and remedial actions are within provincial areas of responsibility. Local government involvement is primarily focused on addressing matters related to those who are currently homeless. The Government of British Columbia has a homelessness strategy, and a necessary first step is to meet with key provincial and local government officials to identify points of potential interaction. (UBCM 8)
- Addressing the tragedy of *mental health and addiction* is an urgent matter for both parties and is closely related to the Homelessness Strategy. Work to identify appropriate roles for the provincial government and local government will begin by meeting with key provincial officials leading work in this area. (UBCM 10)
- The *Emergency Management Act* review is a major provincial project in which UBCM is already engaged. The working group is well positioned to contribute to a discussion of the financial components of this work but will need to first meet with those engaged in the project. (UBCM 9)
- Strengthening the transit funding model **is an important issue to both parties.** A meeting with TransLink and provincial officials will also be arranged to discuss work on matters specific to transit financing. (UBCM 18)*

*Government desires that TransLink participate in the Province’s broader review of local government finances and that additional regional funding tools be further considered as part of that process to help inform development of TransLink’s next Investment Plan that begins in 2025.

Medium/Long-Term Workplan

- The remaining 11 recommendations (#2, 6, 11-17, 19, and 20) will be considered as part of medium and long-term work planning
- Of the 9 recommendations proposed for short-term activities, it is anticipated that most/all will also be reviewed (or re-assessed) in medium and/or long-term work plans
- Timing in workplan does not imply importance/priority
- All recommendations will be considered
- An updated workplan, including medium-term activities will be brought back to Ministers/UBCM Presidents Committee for review in the first half of 2023

In Closing

- Discussion/Feedback
- Direction/Confirmation of short-term actions/workplan
- Questions?