

Principles to Consider in Strengthening Local Government Financial Health – For Discussion

The UBCM-Province Working Group on Local Government Finance conducted a structured discussion activity to identify a series of principles that can guide consideration of potential actions to strengthen local government financial health. This is not an exhaustive list, and the Working Group invites discussion and input by the Ministers and UBCM Presidents Committee.

Accountability

Policies or activities can be justified, are based in evidence, provide value to the taxpayer, and are responsive and responsible to all orders of government.

Efficiency

Revenues and expenditures are structured to provide delivery of public goods and services to desired service levels over the long term while maximizing benefits and minimizing costs.

Equity

The costs and benefits of public goods and services are distributed among people in ways that alleviate disadvantages and share opportunities equally. This includes equity among individuals, economic groups, and generations.

Fairness

There is fair distribution between provincial and local governments of the responsibility and costs of providing various public goods and services and the revenues or funding associated with those goods and services.

Forward-Looking

Policies and actions of governments account for both short-term and long-term costs and benefits, and consider how today's decisions will affect the financial health of communities in the future.

Partnership

The provincial and local governments work collaboratively while respecting their distinct roles in promoting the shared interests of well-being and prosperity of communities in B.C.

Predictability

Revenues and most expenditures can be determined in advance and relied upon to meet the needs of communities and the province overall.

Resiliency

Communities can consistently provide the desired levels of service over the long-term regardless of changing circumstances.

Transparency

Actions or policies of governments can be seen, explained, and understood by those who are affected by them.