



BRITISH COLUMBIA

April 18th, 2023

Reference: 639507

Councillor Jen Ford
President
Union of BC Municipalities
Email: jford@whistler.ca

Dear Jen Ford:

Thank you for your speaking with me on April 12th about our work to repeal and replace the *Emergency Program Act* with modernized emergency management legislation. I am writing today to share our discussion directly with members of UBCM's Presidents Committee and Community Safety Committee.

I am pleased to report that we now have finalized draft legislation. This legislation has been co-developed with First Nations, including Rights and Title holders, the First Nations Leadership Council, and the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations. It has been informed by years of engagement with local authorities, including a 2019/20 discussion paper and regular meetings with the Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee. Most recently, my staff appreciated the opportunity to present to the Electoral Area Directors' Forum and host a provincial policy workshop as part of the 2022 UBCM Convention in Whistler.

We have heard from some of our partners an interest in having more time to understand the legislation before it comes into effect, and some communities have requested that it not be tabled in spring 2023 to take effect immediately prior to the hazard season. Responsive to these concerns, government will table the legislation in fall 2023. This provides an opportunity through the spring and summer of 2023 for my ministry to work with communities to ensure a common understanding of the legislation, how it will be implemented, and what supports are needed to make these changes successful.

I understand that staff from my ministry have already begun discussing with the UBCM Community Safety Committee how modernized legislation will be implemented. This has included a presentation on February 23rd about new consultation and cooperation requirements with Indigenous governing bodies. A presentation is also planned for later this week about the Indigenous Agreements Framework. I welcome suggestions from the UBCM Presidents Committee and UBCM Community Safety Committee on how best my ministry can support communities in preparing for the legislation. I look forward to discussing this with you in our meeting on Thursday as part of UBCM Advocacy Days.

Thank you again for taking the time to speak with me on April 12th. I appreciate the positive collaboration between my ministry and UBCM on this work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bowinn".

Bowinn Ma
Minister of Emergency Management
and Climate Readiness

CC: The Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Municipal Affairs
UBCM Presidents Committee
UBCM Community Safety Committee
Bhar Sihota, Senior Policy Analyst, UBCM