

# UBCM Governance Review 2026

## Survey Backgrounder

UBCM's governing body, the Executive, is comprised of 21 members, all of whom hold elected office at the local government level in British Columbia. The composition of the Executive is set out in section 3 of UBCM's bylaws. Some members of the Executive are elected to serve by the UBCM membership at the annual Convention. Other members are appointed to their posts by various bodies, including the five Area Associations, the City of Vancouver and the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD). UBCM's immediate Past President is automatically appointed to the Executive by virtue of having served as the most recent President of the body. In all, the composition of the Executive breaks down as follows:

- Four (4) Officers – President; First, Second, Third Vice Presidents – are elected at large (i.e., by all elected representatives) each year at Convention
- Five (5) Directors at Large are also, as the title suggests, elected at large each year at Convention
- Four (4) Executive members are elected each year at Convention by different constituencies, including one (1) Electoral Area Representative elected by EA Directors, one (1) Small Communities Representative elected by delegates from municipalities with populations below 2,500, and two (2) Vancouver Metro Area Representatives elected by representatives of Metro Vancouver and delegates from Metro Vancouver member municipalities
- One (1) Area Association Representative – five (5) in total – is appointed each year by each Area Association
- One (1) Vancouver Representative is appointed each year by the City of Vancouver Council
- One (1) MVRD Representative is appointed by the Metro Vancouver Board

This composition has been designed to create a governing body that is representative of the membership it serves in terms of geography (i.e., regions of

the Province), type of local government, and size of community. It has been designed, as well, to be accessible to elected officials across the Province who want to serve on Executive. It is similar in many respects to the composition of Executives of other local government organizations across Canada (e.g., Association of Municipalities of Ontario, FCM, others), many of which are designed with the same factors in mind.

In the 120 years since its inception, UBCM has made a number of changes to the composition of its Executive in an effort to enhance the representativeness of the governing body, and the relevance of the body, to membership. Several of these changes were small in nature; others were more significant. All were made through amendments to UBCM's bylaws using Extraordinary Resolutions that achieved the necessary 60% majority at Convention. The last change took effect in early 2011 based on recommendations from a Structure Review Committee that was struck in 2010 to consider the need for additional Vancouver Metro Area Representatives.

In response to recent questions on representation, the evolution of local government in BC, and the ongoing desire to optimize the governing body's legitimacy and relevance to membership, UBCM is undertaking a Governance Review focused on the composition of the Executive. The Review is also considering Resolution NEB14-2024, Union of BC Municipalities Name Change. This resolution seeks to change the UBCM name to be more reflective of the diversity of local government types.

The UBCM Membership Survey is seeking feedback on the composition of UBCM's Executive, and on the matter of a UBCM name change. Elected representatives are asked to give their views on the degree to which the Executive's current composition provides for a body that is representative of the membership it serves. Questions are posed to help determine if changes may be needed to the composition to make the Executive more representative in terms of geography, type of local government, size of community and/or other factors. Questions are also posed to gather views on the way in which the four Officer positions are elected, the size of the Executive and the term of office for each position (currently one year). A set of questions to explore the arguments for and against a change to the UBCM name are included in the final section.