

UBCM Governance Review Update



UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES

GOVERNANCE REVIEW – REPORT

September 16, 2026

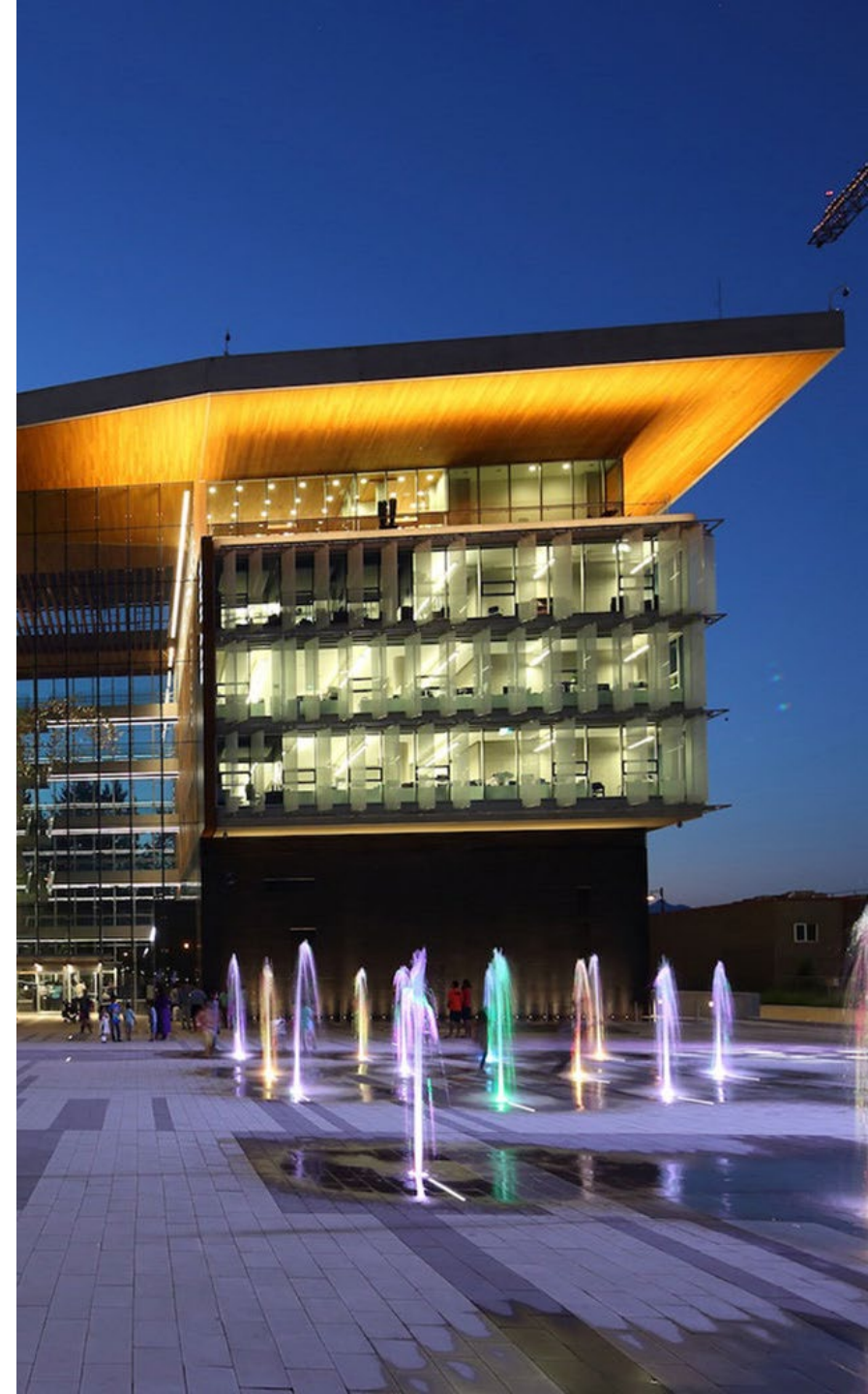
PRESENTATION

- Purpose of Governance Review
- Composition Today
- Membership Engagement
- Composition of Executive – Changes Considered
- UBCM Name Change
- Consideration by Executive



PURPOSE

- Review prompted by questions about degree to which Executive is representative of membership
- Concerns raised, too, about challenges faced in getting elected to positions, in particular Officers



PURPOSE

- ▶ Rooted in notion of legitimacy
 - ✓ when Executive composed in a way that is representative of membership, membership is able to see itself in the governing body
 - ✓ ...and when members can see themselves reflected in the composition, legitimacy of Executive is enhanced



PURPOSE

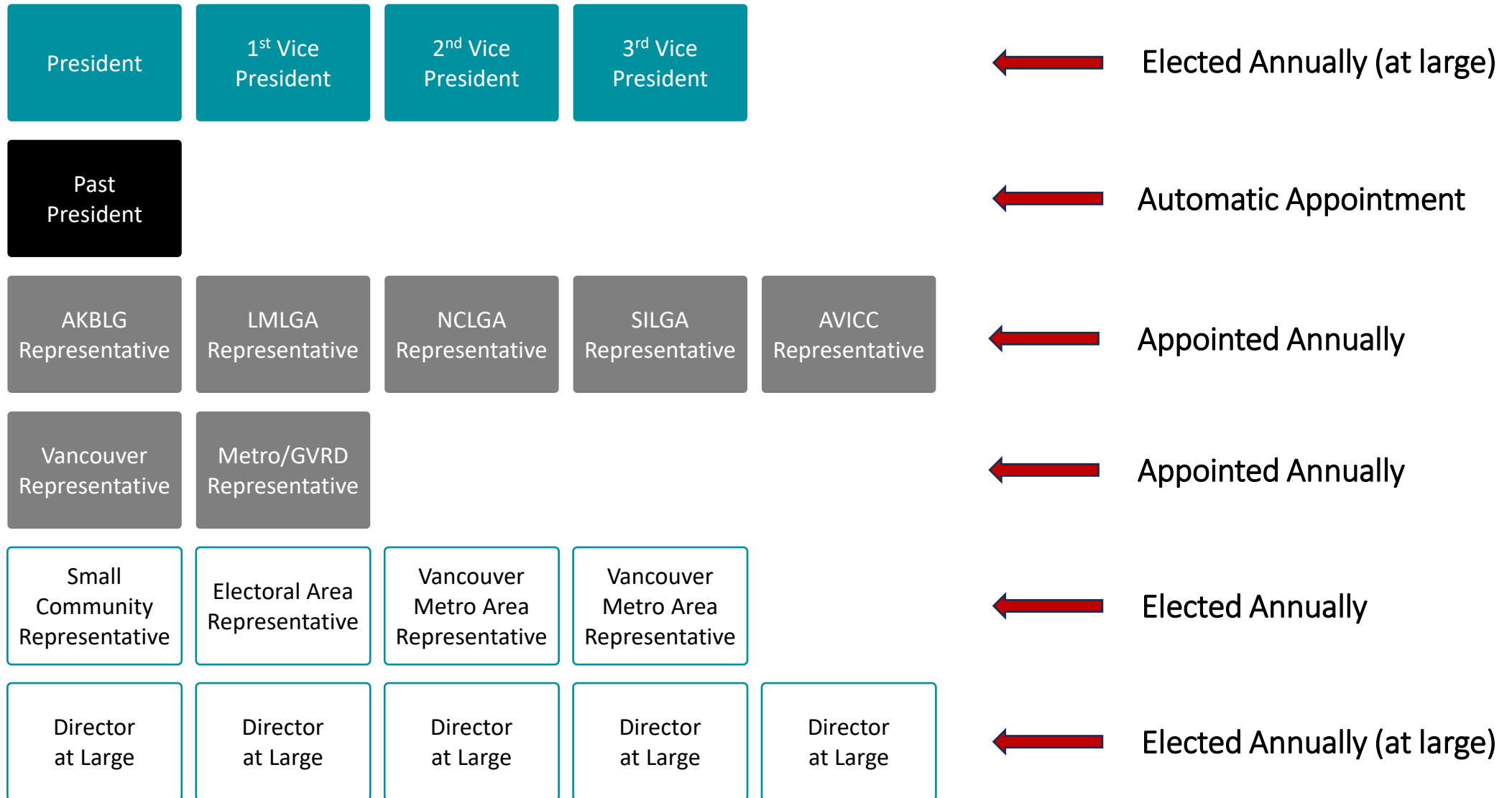
- ▶ *Governance Review* structured to include matter of UBCM name change



COMPOSITION TODAY

- Representation can be based on different factors; current composition intended to reflect:
 - ✓ geography – the regions of British Columbia as defined by Area Associations
 - ✓ type of local government
 - ✓ size of community – small communities; largest metropolitan area and city





ENGAGEMENT

- ▶ Process included comparative research, along with heavy focus on engagement of membership
 - ✓ three focus groups (including session with Executive)
 - ✓ presentations, with opportunity for real-time input, to every Area Association
 - ✓ survey of full membership (15% response rate)



ENGAGEMENT

- ▶ Comparative research on all UBCM counterparts across Canada, along with FCM
 - ✓ feature, to varying degrees, representation by geography, type of local government, size of community
 - ✓ considerable variety in governing body size
 - ✓ UBCM unique in single-year terms of office
 - ✓ FCM unique in rotational elections for Officers



ENGAGEMENT

- ▶ **Focus Groups** differed in terms of participants; but some common themes:
 - ✓ Executive reasonably representative today
 - ✓ two-year terms for some, one-year for Officers
 - ✓ rotational elections for Officer positions
 - ✓ no to formalized progression through Officer ranks
 - ✓ cap size at 21
 - ✓ designated seats for First Nations and regional districts not supported



ENGAGEMENT

- ▶ Key findings from [Area Associations](#):
 - ✓ Executive reasonably representative today (overall)
 - ✓ significant support for rotational elections for Officer positions
 - ✓ support for Large Urban (slight majority)
 - ✓ support for new terms of office (major majority)
 - ✓ cap size at 21



ENGAGEMENT

- ▶ Key findings from [Survey of Membership](#):
 - ✓ Executive reasonably representative
 - ✓ support for rotational elections – not decisive
 - ✓ cap size at 21
 - ✓ appropriate representation by size
 - ✓ increase representation for member First Nations



CHANGES CONSIDERED

- ▶ Size of Executive, at 21 members, treated as a constraint
 - ✓ means that efforts to enhance representation of one group will inevitably reduce level of representation for others
 - ✓ changes must acknowledge impact on existing groups, and must be compelling



CHANGES CONSIDERED

- ▶ Current composition provides for governing body that is already reasonably representative
 - ✓ prevailing view expressed by majority of Area Association delegates, survey respondents, focus group participants
 - ✓ suggests that incremental rather than sweeping changes should be focus



CHANGES CONSIDERED

- ▶ Four changes – or sets of changes – considered;
three resulted in recommendations by consultant
 - ✓ rotational elections for Officer Positions
 - ✓ representation based on size
 - ✓ terms of office
 - ✓ representation based on type of local government



CHANGES CONSIDERED

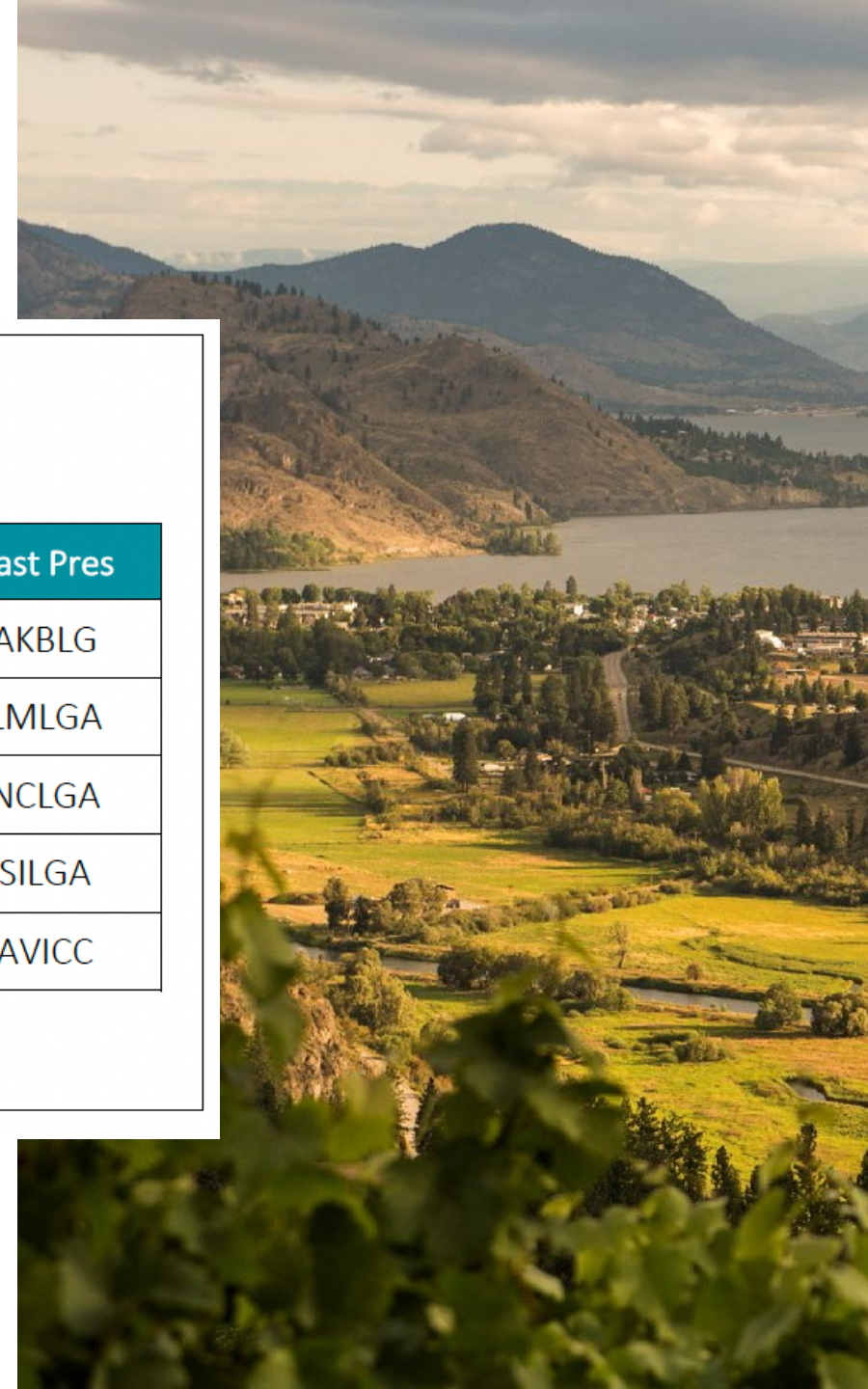
- ▶ Rotational elections for Officer Positions
 - ✓ Area Association-specific pools of candidates for Officer positions
 - ✓ designation for each position rotates annually
 - ✓ regional-specific candidacy; at-large voting
 - ✓ result is every Area Association represented at Officers Table every year



Figure IV.2
Rotational Elections for UBCM

Year Ending	President	First Vice	Second Vice	Third Vice	Past Pres
1 or 6*	LMLGA	NCLGA	SILGA	AVICC	AKBLG
2 or 7	NCLGA	SILGA	AVICC	AKBLG	LMLGA
3 or 8	SILGA	AVICC	AKBLG	LMLGA	NCLGA
4 or 9	AVICC	AKBLG	LMLGA	NCLGA	SILGA
5 or 0	AKBLG	LMLGA	NCLGA	SILGA	AVICC

* For example 2031, 2036



CHANGES CONSIDERED

- ▶ Adjust representation by Size of Community
 - ✓ retain Small Communities; 5,000 threshold
 - ✓ increase representation for Large Urban Communities
 - ✓ redistribute existing seats from Vancouver metro region



CHANGES CONSIDERED

- ▶ Adjust Terms of Office
 - ✓ increase to two-year terms, but not for Officers
 - ✓ retain single-year terms for Area Association Representatives – change up to Area Associations
 - ✓ staggered elections



UBCM NAME

- Arguments for and against name change tested on Membership
- opposition to prospect of change



EXECUTIVE

- Workshop with Executive to kick off project
- Review of Report with Executive in two separate meetings



EXECUTIVE

- ▶ Executive has endorsed some of the consultant's recommendations
 - ✓ will be presented to Membership later this morning as Extraordinary Resolution



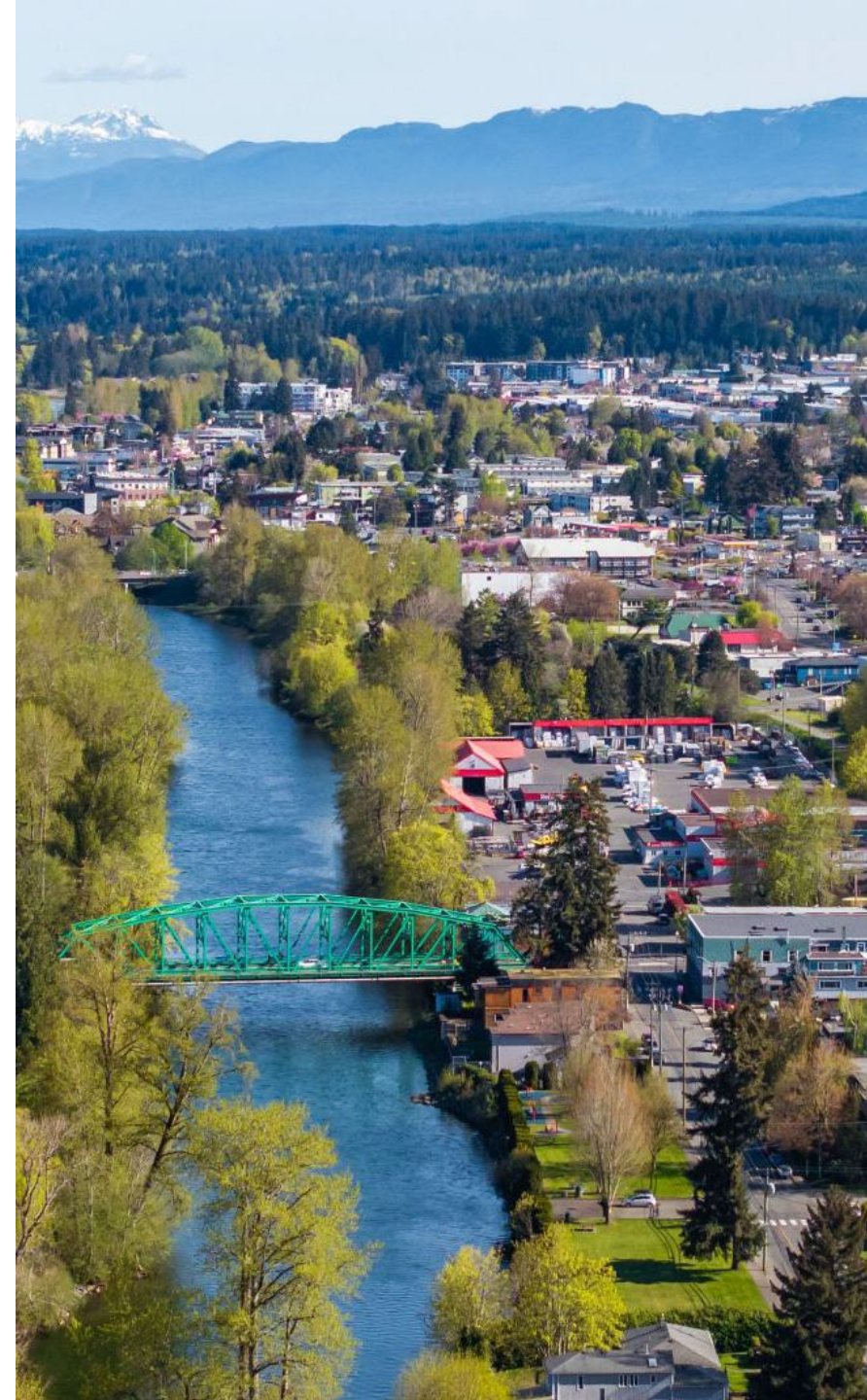
EXECUTIVE

- ▶ Representation by Size of Community
 - ✓ Increase the upper population limit for the Small Community Representative from 2,500 to 5,000
 - ✓ Repurpose one of the two Vancouver Metro Area Representative positions as an Urban Community Representative position for municipalities with a population of 100,000 or greater



EXECUTIVE

- ▶ Terms of Office
 - ✓ Introduce staggered two-year terms for all Executive positions, except the Past President, Officers, and the five Area Association Representatives



EXECUTIVE

- ▶ Executive agreed with recommendation to NOT pursue a name change



EXECUTIVE

- ▶ Executive has chosen to defer for two years the recommendation dealing with rotational elections for Officer positions
 - ✓ desire for further time to explore alternative approaches





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COMMON
GOOD UBCM
2026



The Rural Coordination Centre of BC

In appreciation of our speakers today and with thanks for your contribution, UBCM has made a donation to the Rural Coordination Centre of BC. Since their inception in 2007, RCCBC has grown into a network of hundreds of people - rural physicians and other healthcare providers, healthcare administrators, community members, policymakers, educators, researchers, and non-profit and business leaders – guided by the principles of cultural safety and humility.