



July 22, 2022

Dear B.C. Chairs and Mayors:

I write to seek your support for the Regional District of Nanaimo's UBCM resolution urging UBCM to work with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and local governments in a collective endeavour to modernize the *Local Government Act*.

Regional districts are limited in their legislative authority in comparison with municipalities in several key areas such as business licensing authority, subdivision approval, regulation of fireworks discharge, parking enforcement, tree management, and taxation and funding models.

Further, social, political and economic environments that local governments operate within continue to evolve in areas such as climate change, environmental stewardship and a recognition of the importance of First Nations' meaningful participation in regional governance. These realities should be reflected in updated legislation. Inclusive governance, a goal identified in the Province's Action Plan under the *Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, is an important aspect of legislative reform and will inform any re-envisioning of the *Local Government Act*.

This initiative is also of interest to municipal officials, including to those who look to level the playing field with their rural neighbours, as many aspects of municipal operations are contained in the *Local Government Act*. The planning framework, shared by regional districts and municipalities, is within the *Local Government Act* and needs updating.

In June 2021, the Regional District of Nanaimo, with Don Lidstone, Q.C., hosted a virtual half-day session with regional district Chairs and CAOs across BC to explore the possibility of mobilizing a collaborative effort to modernize the legislation. Participants expressed an interest in proceeding with the initiative, pending approval of their Boards.

On April 1, 2022, the Chairs of the Regional District of Nanaimo and Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, together with Don Lidstone, hosted a workshop on this topic at the AVICC Convention which was attended by elected officials from regional districts and municipalities and generated robust discussion. The slide presentation used at that session is attached for reference.

The Regional District of Nanaimo resolution, endorsed at the April AVICC Convention and included in the 2022 UBCM resolutions book, proposes action on this matter as follows:

WHEREAS regional districts are limited in their legislative authority in comparison with municipalities in several key areas such as business licensing authority, subdivision approval, regulation of fireworks discharge, parking enforcement, tree management, and taxation and funding models;

AND WHEREAS the social, political and economic environments that local governments operate within continue to evolve in areas such as climate change, environmental stewardship and a recognition of the importance of First Nations' participation in regional governance, and these realities should be reflected in updated legislation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT UBCM be urged to work with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and regional districts to further a legislative reform initiative for the purpose of comprehensively reviewing and modernizing the Local Government Act.

In addition, the RDN has requested a meeting with Minister Cullen, to be arranged jointly with Chair John Jack of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, to discuss this initiative further at the upcoming UBCM Convention.

We welcome your support of the UBCM resolution and look forward to achieving forward momentum and interjurisdictional collaboration for this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tyler Brown, Chair
Regional District of Nanaimo